

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-24 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 21 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to the specification, including the title. In amending the specification, the objection set forth in paragraph 1 of the Office Action has been addressed. A new abstract is being submitted to better set forth the technical features of the invention. In the claims, independent Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. In addition, editorial changes have been made to selected claims, and new Claims 21-24 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In response to this rejection, Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to include the steps of forming an airtight container and forming the display devices. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments to Claims 19 and 20, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is also respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Haven '681. Claims 12, 18 and 20 are rejected as allegedly being

anticipated by Kang '731. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Haven in view of Kim '003. Claim 7 is rejected as allegedly being obvious over Haven in view of Woodard '662. Claims 12-14, 17 and 18 are rejected as allegedly being obvious over Haven in view of Hasegawa '220. Claim 15 is rejected as allegedly being obvious over Haven and Hasegawa and further in view of Kim. Claim 16 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Haven and Hasegawa and further in view of Woodard. Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 13 and 19 are rejected as allegedly being obvious over Kang in view of Nishimura. Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Kang and Nishimura and further in view of Kim (Claim 4) and Woodard (Claim 7). Claim 15 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Kang in view of Kim. Finally, Claim 16 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Kang in view of Woodard. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicants' invention relates to a method of manufacturing an airtight container, and includes the steps of setting a member for defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate, and disposing a linear seal bonding material having a round cross-sectional area along a corner portion formed by setting the member to abut on the substrate. In addition, at a state of setting the member to abut on the substrate, a closed bonding line is formed by performing airtight bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding member material by locally heating the seal bonding material to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature that allows the airtight bonding and then curing the seal bonding material.

In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, a high performance airtight container can be manufactured.

The primary citation to Haven relates to a glazing unit consisting of sheets of glass 26 and 27 separated by an air space 28 and supported by separator strips 29. The strips are joined to the glass by a solder composition in the form of fillets 93 and 94.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Haven does not teach or suggest, among other features, providing a linear seal bonding having a round cross-sectional area as set forth in Claim 1. In Haven, the fillets 93 and 94 (or fillet 91 shown in Figures 17 and 18) are shown as strips to be precoated on the separator strip 29. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The patent to Kang relates to a plasma display panel that includes front and rear glass substrates 11, 12 combined with each other by a frit glass sealing material 22 (see Figure 3). A non-light emitting zone filling portion 31 is formed between outermost partitions 33 and the frit glass 22.

The secondary citation to Nishimura relates to a method of making an image forming apparatus that shows, in Figure 8B, a spacer 89 and a frame member 82 positioned between a rear plate 81 and a face plate 86. The spacer is connected with frit glass 80 and 90. Nishimura is relied upon in the Office Action for using localized heating to heat materials.

Without conceding the propriety of combining Kang and Nishimura in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to teach or suggest

Applicants' invention as now set forth in Claim 1. For example, the proposed combination does not teach or suggest, among other features, disposing a linear seal bonding material, having a round cross-sectional area, along a corner portion formed by the setting member abutting the substrate. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Several secondary citations were applied in the rejections of the remaining claims. It is submitted, however, that these citations fail to compensate for the deficiencies in the patents discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

The Kim patent, for example, relates to an apparatus for sealing substrates in a field emission device and is relied upon for performing manufacturing under a vacuum atmosphere.

The Woodard patent relates to a method of manufacturing an airtight space and was cited for its teaching of providing grooves in spacers.

The Hasegawa patent relates to an image forming apparatus and was cited for teaching a sealing material preformed into a solid shape, such as a wire. In Hasegawa, an outer frame 3 is fixed between a rear plate 2 and a face plate 4 and set by a sealant 14 and adhesive 9. Although Hasegawa discloses that an indium (In) wire can be set to the sealant 14 and molded in an arbitrary shape, there is no teaching or suggestion of providing a linear seal bonding material as set forth in Applicants' independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the secondary citations fail to compensate for the deficiencies in Claim 1 as discussed above. Therefore, the proposed combinations of art, even if proper, still fail to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 12, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is deemed to be overcome by virtue of Claim 12 being cancelled.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-11 and 13-20 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

New Claims 21-24 are also submitted to be patentable.

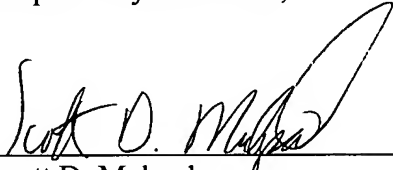
Claim 21 relates to a method of manufacturing an airtight container, and includes the steps of setting a member for a defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate, and supplying a seal bonding material of indium or indium alloy to a corner portion formed by the substrate and the member of a portion to be the corner portion formed in the setting step. At a state of setting the member to abut on the substrate, under a condition of heating the member at a temperature equal to or lower than 130°C, a seal bonding material is locally heated to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature at which the seal bonding material can perform bonded bonding. The seal bonding material heated is then cured, so as to perform airtight bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material

to form a closed bonding line. Support for Claim 21 can be found, for example, on page 35, line 20, *et. seq.*, of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Scott D. Malpede  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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